

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
May 20, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, May 20, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that the financial town meeting was held a couple of weeks ago and the school's funding request was approved. He thought the information packet was very informative and the reason there weren't many questions.

The middle grades dinner/dance held on Friday, May 17 was a big success and it is hoped there will be more to come.

The financial report through April 30 was submitted for review. Mr. Hicks stated that it looks as if we will finish in the positive and that includes the retirement expenses. He thinks it is safe to purchase the padding for the gym and outside basketball hoops. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the finance report through April 30, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that he attended The Nature Conservancy recognition breakfast last Friday, where the Block Island School was given a plaque for its outstanding partnership. It was noted that there have been over 3,000 partnership activities over the years. Last year's graduating class was the first to work with The Nature Conservancy for its entire time in school, pre-k to 12.

Mr. Hicks reported that the comparative attendance rates seem to be slightly lower than last year, but no real measurable difference. It was requested that he continue the comparison next year, but without the Friday attendance information.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks submitted the 2013-2014 school calendar approved at the April meeting and an alternative that moves February vacation one week later. The teachers' association was advised of the possible change to the February vacation week and submitted a memo urging the committee to stay with the traditional calendar because the timing of these changes could have a negative impact on families and staff. The association further requested that any major changes in the next year's calendar should be addressed prior to Thanksgiving. A motion (Connor, Padien) to approve the alternate calendar option for the 2013-2014 school year to give it a try carried with a vote of 4-1 with Ann Hall voting in the negative.

New Business

Mr. Hicks reported that The Trust health pool has done well and the capital contribution we paid in our first year of membership will be returned to us with interest (\$7,851). This money has been reserved for the forthcoming OPEB Trust. There will be an additional distribution from The Trust because of its increasingly strong pool-wide experience. Part of the distribution is fixed (\$26,867) and part will depend on experience through the balance of the year (up to an additional \$8,956). Options are to receive a check or "bank" (with interest) against future rates. The town and the school are one unit with the Trust and neither has the size to stand alone. Mr. Hicks has discussed this with the Town Manager and they agree we should treat them the same so our rates remain identical. A motion (Connor, Hall) to bank the fixed distribution from The Trust against future rate increases and to return any variable distribution to the school department carried with 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that he reviewed the pay of support personnel and found that two employees did not match up with others when hourly rate, pay range, and length of employment is taken into consideration. He requested that the School Committee approve a \$1.00 increase to the hourly rate of Amy Dugan and Lynn Fletcher, which would be in addition to the percentage increase scheduled to take effect July 1. Also, the maintenance supervisor stipend has not been increased since the position was created and Mr. Hicks requested a \$2000 increase for it. A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the adjustments to the hourly wage of Amy Dugan and Lynn Fletcher and to increase the maintenance supervisor stipend by \$2000 carried with a vote of 5-0.

The search committee, consisting of Marlee Lacoste, Barbara MacMullan, Kristine Monje, Oliver Mott, Lisa Robb, Joanne Warfel, and Mr. Hicks, finished interviewing part-time principal candidates last Friday afternoon. The committee unanimously recommended the reappointment of John Canole for the 75-day position for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Hicks explained that the school would be best served with Mr. Canole given his work over the past four years and the building management experience he brings to the position. In addition, the co-principal position may be phased out over a few years and getting someone new for a short period of time could be a detriment. A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of John Canole as the part-time co-principal for the 2013-2014 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The annual School Committee/Senior Class dinner has been scheduled for Monday, June 3. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 17.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 7:55 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(1) for a personnel issue carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted for the record that the person had received written notification regarding the discussion.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:17 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0

Resignations/Terminations

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate Renee Meyer as Finance Director effective immediately carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:18 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: June 17, 2013